

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 227943
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:APBURLEIGH
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTWINAM
-----020102 081812Z /64
P 081703Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 227943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, BA

SUBJECT: DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR BAHRAIN

REF: STATE 207310

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS FOR BAHRAIN FOR 1978. EMBASSY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, AND ESPECIALLY UPDATING ARE REQUESTED BY NEA/ARP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS DRAFT HAS BEEN CLEARED IN ARP AND IS BASED ON THE AGREED FINAL REPORT FOR LAST YEAR. ARP NEEDS EMBASSY COMMENTS NOT LATER THAN COB SEPT. 12.

2. BEGIN DRAFT: HISTORICALLY THE MOST PROSPEROUS AND COSMOPOLITAN OF THE ARAB STATES IN THE PERSIAN GULF, BAHRAIN PIONEERED IN DEVOTING OIL REVENUES TO SOCIAL WELFARE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOW LESS WELL-OFF THAN ITS OIL-EXPORTING NEIGHBORS. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS IN BAHRAIN IS CONDITIONED BY A TRADITION OF TOLERANCE. IT HAS AN EDUCATED POPULATION, INCLUDING THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 227943

REGION'S ONLY NATIVE INDUSTRIAL PROLETARIAT. THEREFORE, THERE IS POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVITY OF A KIND HARDLY KNOWN IN NEIGHBORING STATES. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MIXTURE OF PROGRESSIVE

SOCIAL OUTLOOK AND A FIRM CONCERN FOR STATE SECURITY. THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES STRICT SAFEGUARDS FOR PERSONAL

LIBERTIES AND DEDICATES THE STATE TO SOCIAL WELFARE, BUT AFTER A BRIEF EXPERIENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THE AMIR IN 1975 SUSPENDED THE ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A) TORTURE. THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS LONG FACED A SMALL BUT WELL-ORGANIZED RADICAL OPPOSITION WHICH CARRIED OUT A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN LATE 1976. IN DEALING WITH THIS GROUP, THE AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE PERMITTED THE TORTURE OF PERSONS DETAINED BY THE POLICE.

B) CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN DOES NOT PRACTICE CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.

C) ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN EMPLOYS PRE-EMPTIVE IMPRISONMENT IN CASES INVOLVING WHAT IT VIEWS AS SERIOUS AND IMMEDIATE THREATS TO CIVIL ORDER, AS WELL AS PERSONAL THREATS TO MEMBERS OF THE RULING FAMILY, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, OR RELIGIOUS LEADERS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS OCCASIONALLY DEFINED A THREAT TO CIVIL ORDER TO INCLUDE NON-VIOLENT PUBLIC PROTESTS, BUT IN SUCH CASES THOSE ARRESTED HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 227943

DETAINED ONLY BRIEFLY. IN MORE SERIOUS CASES, ONLY A FEW PERSONS REGARDED AS SECURITY THREATS HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME; THESE CASES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED PERIODICALLY BY THE COURTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

D) DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL. FAIR PUBLIC TRIALS ARE GENERALLY PROVIDED IN BAHRAIN. TRIALS FOR CRIMES JUDGED TREASONABLE MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

E) INVASION OF THE HOME. THE BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES HAVE SEARCHED WITHOUT WARRANT PRIVATE PREMISES IN EXTRA-ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS A PERCEIVED THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE. CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ARBITRARY INVASION OF THE HOME ARE, HOWEVER, USUALLY OBSERVED BY THE POLICE.

4. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST RECEIPT OF SOME OIL INCOME 40

YEARS AGO, THE BAHRAINI REGIME SET AN EXAMPLE IN THE REGION BY LIBERAL POLICIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. MORE RECENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON COSTLY ANTI-INFLATION SUBSIDIES AND PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS.

A COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BOOM HAS INTENSIFIED THE INEQUALITY OF WEALTH IN THIS ESSENTIALLY FREE-ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOCATING THE BULK OF ITS PUBLIC RESOURCES TO PROVIDING THE SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS GUARANTEED THE CITIZENS BY THE CONSTITUTION.

BAHRAIN'S MODEST OIL WEALTH, COMBINED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIVELY ENLIGHTENED SOCIAL POLICIES, RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 227943

IN A REASONABLY EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC WEALTH. TAXATION OF THE PUBLIC IS TOKEN. BAHRAIN TAKES PRIDE IN THE LACK OF CORRUPTION IN ITS PUBLIC LIFE; SOME DOES EXIST, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE POOR.

5. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:

A) FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY.

BAHRAINIS ARE FREE IN THOUGHT AND SPEECH. FROM TIME TO TIME, THE PRESS IS CENSORED, PARTICULARLY IN DISCUSSION OF BAHRAIN'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC, AND RACIAL TOLERANCE IS CHARACTERISTIC OF BAHRAINI SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND LEGAL PRACTICE. THE EASY ACCEPTANCE OF BAHRAINI JEWS IN IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE COMMUNITY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS ATTITUDE.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IS MORE ADVANCED IN BAHRAIN THAN IN ANY OTHER ARABIAN PENINSULA COUNTRY. EDUCATION HAS LONG BEEN AVAILABLE TO WOMEN, AND THEY ARE NOW MOVING TOWARD THE GOAL OF JOB EQUALITY. THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED LABOR FORCE.

ALTHOUGH FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PROHIBITED GATHERINGS WHICH IT HAS CONSIDERED TO BE A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER.

B) FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 227943

BAHRAINIS ARE FREE TO MOVE WITHIN THE COUNTRY, TO TRAVEL ABROAD, AND TO EMIGRATE.

C) FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY SUFFERED A SETBACK WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1975. THE PRESENT LACK OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS IS, HOWEVER, IN PART COUNTERBALANCED BY THE RELATIVE EASE OF ACCESS OF CITIZENS TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS. THE CABINET TRADITIONALLY IS BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY.

FOR DECADES, BAHRAIN HAS HAD AN ACTIVE LABOR MOVEMENT, WHICH AT TIMES HAS REPRESENTED A POTENT POLITICAL FORCE. TRADE UNIONS, HOWEVER, ARE ILLEGAL. WORKERS ARE INSTEAD ORGANIZED ON AN INDUSTRY-BY-INDUSTRY BASIS INTO WORKERS' COUNCILS. THE COUNCILS PRIMARILY PERFORM SOCIAL WELFARE FUNCTIONS FOR THEIR MEMBERS AND SERVE A LIAISON FUNCTION WITH MANAGEMENT WITH RESPECT TO WORKER GRIEVANCES.

6. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS FOLLOWED THE CASES OF MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN BAHRAIN. IN SEPTEMBER 1975, THE ORGANIZATION WROTE TO THE AMIR ADVOCATING THEIR RELEASE. SUBSEQUENTLY 27 OR 28 WERE RELEASED. SOME OF THESE HAVE SINCE GONE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF RE-ARREST AND RELEASE SEVERAL TIMES.

NO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION HAS ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BAHRAIN. ACCORDING TO FREEDOM HOUSE, BAHRAIN IS "PARTLY FREE." END OF DRAFT REPORT. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE227943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: APBURLEIGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780366-0942
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780987/aaaactwh.tel
Line Count: 209
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a72a1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 207310
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1499765
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR BAHRAIN
TAGS: SHUM, BA
To: MANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a72a1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014